Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service
2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9405
Marc Tosiano, State Statistician

717-787-3904
Fax: 717-782-4011
nass-pa@nass.usda.gov
www.usda.gov/nass

A field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending April 27, 2003

Good week for Field Work: There were 5 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated as 6 percent very short, 8 percent short, 70 percent adequate and 16 percent surplus. Principle farm activities included hauling manure; spreading lime and fertilizer; spraying herbicides; cultivating fields; planting oats, barley, alfalfa, potatoes, and corn; fixing fences; and caring for livestock

Crops: Warmer dryer weather permitted farmers to spend most of the week working in the fields. Some areas of Pennsylvania experienced thunderstorms and/or snow, limiting the amount of tillage completed. Percent of spring plowing completed jumped to 42 percent, up 22 percent from last week but still 22 and 12 percent behind 2002 and the five-year average, respectively. The percent of winter wheat headed increased to 12 percent, 7 percent ahead of last year and 8 percent ahead of the five-year average. The wheat condition improved slightly, with 1 percent rated very poor, 8 percent poor, 19 percent fair, 60 percent good and 12 percent excellent. The oat condition improved slightly as well, with 2 percent rated very poor, 9 percent poor, 34 percent fair, 50 percent good and 5 percent excellent. The percent of oats planted increased to 53 percent, 20 percent higher than last week but still 8 percent behind last year's pace. The percent of oats emerged advanced to 12 percent, 25 percent behind 2002 and 16 behind the five-year average. The percent of barley headed increased greatly, from 3 percent last week to 27 percent this week. This percent increase is on pace with 2002 and the five-year average. Farmers nearly finished planting tobacco this past week. The alfalfa stand condition held steady, with 2 percent rated very poor, 4 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 56 percent good and 13 percent excellent. Timothy clover condition improved slightly, with 4 percent rated very poor, 4 percent poor, 27 percent fair, 59 percent good and 6 percent excellent.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending April 27, 2003

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
		Percent	
Spring plowing	42	64	54
Corn, Planted	5	12	8
Barley, Headed	27	29	25
Winter Wheat, Headed	12	5	4
Oats, Planted	53	61	54
Oats, Emerged	12	37	28
Tobacco, Planted	100	100	100
Potatoes, Planted	10	12	15
Peaches, Pink	95	0	73
Peaches, Full	78	0	62
Cherries, Pink	72	0	73
Cherries, Full	31	0	66
Apples, Pink	75	0	52
Apples, Full	62	0	39

LIVESTOCK: With warmer temperatures and more sunshine, the pasture condition was able to flourish and improve. Only 2 percent of pasture land was rated very poor, 8 percent was poor, 37 percent was fair, 45 percent was good and 8 percent was excellent. A few farmers are reporting that cold, wet weather is till hampering pasture development, however.

U.S. As Of April 20, 2003:Highlights: Field preparation and planting resumed in the Southeast and Tennessee Valley as excess moisture gradually drained from soggy fields. Warmer-than-normal temperatures early in the week encouraged farmers to prepare soils for planting many areas of the Corn Belt and Great Plains. Later in the week, rainfall brought nearly all fieldwork to a halt, then high temperatures and strong winds negated much of the benefit from the showers activity in some areas. The precipitation in the Rocky Mountains provided slight improvement to the crop condition and soil moisture. Excellent weather along the Gulf Coast allowed field activity to escalate. Late-season showers provided relief to the Pacific Coast and Great Basin, while delaying fieldwork and planting. Corn: Planting was 12-percent complete, the same as this time last year but 2 percentage points ahead of the 5-year average. Planting was very active in the central Great Plains and middle Mississippi Valley. Planting resumed as the soil dried in the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Winter Wheat: Ten percent of the Nation's winter wheat was headed, ahead of last year's 8 percent but slightly behind the 5-year average of 11 percent. Warmer-than-normal weather accelerated wheat development in the southern Great Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and Southeast. Small grains: The barley crop was 22-percent seeded, compared with last year's 14 percent and the 5-year average of 18 percent. Even though temperatures were slightly below normal, planting continued in the Pacific Northwest. Above-normal temperatures continued to encourage barley planting in the northern Great Plains. The oat crop was 34-percent seeded and 7-percent emerged. Planting was ahead of last year's pace of 30-percent seeded, while emergence was slightly behind at 4-percent. The warm, dry weather conditions encouraged planting throughout the Corn Belt and Pennsylvania.

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending April 27, 2003

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
			Percent		
Winter wheat	1	8	19	60	12
Oats	2	9	34	50	5
Alfalfa stand	2	4	25	56	13
Timothy clover stand	4	4	27	59	6
Pasture conditions	2	8	37	45	8

Weather Data For Week Ending April 27, 2003

	LAST WEEK WEATHER SUMMARY						April 1, 03 - April 27, 03					GDD
	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION		PRECIPITATION			GDD BASE 50F		BASE 40F
STATION	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL	DFN	TOT
NORTHWEST												
Erie	79	28	46	-4	0.73	3	1.91	-1.02	7	76	+52	190
Franklin_AG	75	27	48	-2	0.53	3	2.44	-0.73	11	70	+47	218
Meadville	74	27	47	-2	0.78	3	2.76	-0.21	7	66	+51	207
Mercer	76	22	47	-3	0.82	3	2.03	-1.02	6	72	+49	212
Springboro	77	24	46	-4	0.79	4	3.10	+0.25	11	65	+38	183
Warren	72	26	46	-2	0.45	3	2.37	-0.80	10	45	+29	166
NORTH CENTRAL												
Bradford_Region	67	23	46	+1	0.41	5	2.93	-0.10	11	61	+54	176
Emporium	69	26	48	+3	0.62	5	2.83	-0.23	13	58	+48	205
Kane	68	20	42	-4	0.39	4	2.57	-0.68	9	17	+10	98
Laporte	64	27	44	-6	0.64	5	3.11	+0.20	14	28	-4	126
Lock_Haven	71	30	50	-1	0.78	5	2.39	-0.36	14	64	+30	227
Port_Allegany	69	23	46	-2	0.19	3	2.17	-0.65	9	39	+26	147
Renovo	70	29	49	-2	0.17	4	2.03	-0.72	14	63	+29	221
Ridgway	70	24	46	-2	0.41	4	1.35	-1.71	10	44	+34	171
Stevenson_Dam	70	27	48	+2	0.31	5	2.61	-0.45	14	45	+35	191
Towanda	69	30	48	-3	0.71	5	2.51	-0.07	14	33	+2	148
Wellsboro	66	26	45	-2	0.35	3	2.40	+0.32	10	32	+23	128
Williamsport_AP	68	32	52	+0	0.64	3	2.82	-0.08	13	79	+25	242
NORTHEAST												
Hawley	70	28	47	-2	0.88	5	2.31	-0.76	11	21	+7	130
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	72	34	51	+1	1.01	4	2.12	-0.52	13	79	+42	220
Susquehanna	74	29	49	+3	1.55	5	3.20	-0.03	12	38	+27	158
WEST CENTRAL												
Butler	77	26	50	-1	0.52	3	1.55	-1.31	9	97	+63	272
New_Castle	79	27	50	+2	0.70	3	1.68	-1.02	8	96	+74	274
Slippery_Rock	77	27	51	+3	0.68	3	2.02	-0.79	7	98	+80	275
CENTRAL												
Altoona/Blair_C	66	29	50	-3	0.38	4	1.85	-0.99	15	100	+51	260
Du_Bois	69	23	48	-2	0.38	5	2.48	-0.50	13	96	+75	243
Lewistown	70	36	52	-2	0.44	3	1.67	-0.95	10	84	+20	257
Middletown	70	39	54	-1	0.78	3	2.50	-0.38	13	92	+13	270
Prince_Gallitzi	71	30	48	-1	0.45	4	2.18	-1.61	9	76	+56	212
Selinsgrove	69	35	51	-2	0.75	4	2.92	+0.07	15	60	+13	216
State_College_P	70	34	51	+0	0.43	4	2.49	-0.12	13	79	+44	238
EAST CENTRAL												
Allentown-Bethl	69	35	52	+0	0.63	3	1.98	-1.15	12	70	+15	228
Lehighton	68	35	51	-2	0.63	4	1.86	-1.03	14	46	-2	184
Matamoras	71	29	48	-4	0.36	5	1.59	-1.95	13	27	-10	134
Tobyhanna	72	35	51	+6	1.16	4	2.87	-0.76	11	56	+48	195
SOUTHWEST												
Pittsburgh/Alle	78	33	54	+3	0.38	4	3.10	+0.24	12	167	+118	371
Derry	77	30	50	+1	0.45	4	2.36	-0.54	12	109	+83	266
Meyersdale	70	26	47	-4	0.34	3	3.01	-0.52	14	55	+24	186
Mount_Pleasant	78	25	50	+3	0.43	4	2.27	-1.43	13	110	+92	290
Pittsburgh_Intl	78	30	53	+2	0.70	4	2.35	-0.47	12	160	+103	359
Rector	74	24	50	+2	0.37	3	2.06	-1.64	10	98	+80	270
Waynesburg	80	27	51	+1	0.52	3	2.15	-0.96	10	119	+78	309
SOUTH CENTRAL												
Biglerville	70	37	53	-2	0.77	4	3.38	+0.38	14	88	+9	267
Everett	69	31	51	-1	1.09	4	4.03	+1.06	17	78	+38	249
Hanover	70	35	53	-2	0.52	4	2.68	-0.32	13	93	+14	272
Shippensburg	70	36	53	-3	0.82	2	2.77	-0.13	13	93	+10	280
South_Mountain	67	30	49	-3	0.86	3	2.66	-0.18	13	58	+12	197
York_AP	72	35	54	-1	0.60	4	2.09	-1.14	14	95	+14	272
SOUTHEAST												
Green_Lane	72	36	53	+2	0.44	4	2.79	-0.52	15	78	+29	252
Hamburg	69	37	52	+2	0.75	3	2.50	-0.88	12	72	+40	232
Hopewell	68	36	52	-3	0.55	3	2.71	-0.60	12	63	-22	212
Lancaster_AP	69	37	53	+0	0.97	4	2.53	-0.54	12	78	+20	247
Neshaminy_Falls	72	38	53	+0	0.51	3	2.38	-1.19	13	74	+17	239
New_Holland	69	37	53	-1	0.65	3	2.48	-0.59	11	72	+14	234
Philadelphia	71	42	57	+2	0.39	2	2.25	-1.01	10	121	+31	316
Philadelphia_NE	70	38	55	-1	0.40	3	1.90	-1.36	11	98	+8	277
Reading_AP	71	36	54	+2	0.70	3	2.40	-0.99	14	89	+42	254
Valley_Forge_Na	72	32	51	-5	0.57	3	2.19	-1.12	11	54	-31	211
Willow_Grove	68	37	53	+1	0.09	1	1.76	-1.81	10	87	+30	253

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
Precipitation (Rainfall or melted snow/ice) and Pan Evap in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of .01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

Copyright 2003: Agricultural Weather Information Service, Inc. All rights reserved.

INTERNET REPORTERS' COMMENTS, BY COUNTY:

Reporters are from Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

"The weekend brought good weather for plowing and planting spring grains. Farmers were busy hauling manure, spreading lime and fertilizer, and spraying herbicides. Some fields in our county are surprisingly dry for this time of year which has us concerned about a drought. But for right now it is good to get into the fields and get the crops planted."
---Ron McCorkle, Crawford County

"Many farmers have applied winter-stored manure to fields and cleaned out heifer barns. The past week many acres of oats, corn and potatoes were planted. This spring has been very dry and plowing is tough."
---Thomas Tanner, Forrest County

"A couple of cold, snowy days held up progress early to mid week, but by Friday, fields were dry enough to let farmers get back on track with plowing, disking, and planting oats."
---Wes Ramsey, Warren County

"The first real week of weather which permitted field work. Early spring plowing underway."
---John C. George, Bradford County

"Wet cool weather continues to slow field work. Some oats are beginning to emerge. Forages are doing well where cattle were not pastured too soon."
---Burell Whitworth, Clinton County

"Weather was fair to good this week for field work. Plowing, disking and planting of oats, barley, alfalfa. Ground moisture is low to adequate. Would be nice to have a good soaking rain again."
---Pamela Barnes, Tioga County

"Finally, lots of field work being done. Many fields of oats were planted. Wheat was sidedressed. Pastures and grasses are greening up."
---Dolly Little, Cambria County

"Corn planting just beginning last week. All the bugs should be worked out and producers will be really into planting corn this week. Many forage producers will delay planting alfalfa this spring until August due to lateness of spring. Soil temperatures in the low 50's range. Rye chopping will occur this week too."
---Paul H. Craig, Dauphin County

"Finally dry enough to get oats planted. Hope to start working corn ground this week. Pastures are greening up, but slowly due to the very cold weather we have been having all spring. Half an inch of rain Monday but at least no snow!!!"
---Marina K., Huntington County

"Half an inch of rain this past week. Ground drying out nicely, will start to chisel this coming week. Need to empty the manure pit first."
---Viola Pfleegor, Northumberland County

"Extremely warm weather early in week--80 degrees, with cool down at end of week into the 50's. Heavy frost toward end of week with temperatures in the 20's. May have done some limited damage to peach and apple crop. Warm weather has moved fruit trees rapidly into and past full bloom. Good weather has allowed for ploughing and planting of oats."
---Tom Sierzega, Washington County

"Some corn being planted early to try to get corn silage by early August to help with feed supplies that are short after last year's drought. Another good week of progress with tillage and with planting oats and alfalfa. Heavy frost and temperatures in the 20's on Thursday morning."
---John Lohr, Westmoreland County

"Fields were "heavy" all week but lots of fertilizer and manure were run on. Some starting to spray for timothy mites."
---Russ McLucas, Fulton County

"Busy week with soil preparation, planting alfalfa and oats, and with harvesting of rye for silage."
---Bob Anderson, Lancaster County

"Spotty thunderstorms Monday night dropped nearly an inch of rain in spots and kept tillage to a minimum this week. Spraying wheat and hay fields, hauling manure and planting some oats were the main activities this week. Little if any corn is in the ground yet. With warm and dry weather in the forecast, next week will be busy."
---Andrew Frankenfield, Montgomery County

SPRING PLOWING

Percent Completed

PENNSYLVANIA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE
2301 North Cameron Street, Room G-19
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110-9405

)))))))))))))))
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE $300

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA
PERMIT NO. G-38